

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, independent claims 1, 2 and 8 have been amended. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

### **I. 35 USC § 112 CLAIM REJECTION**

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because the recitation "printing" as contained in the preamble of each independent claim (i.e., claims 1, 2 and 8) is inaccurate in describing the invention thus rendering all claims indefinite. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 2 and 8 have been amended to overcome the above-noted instances of indefiniteness. Therefore it is respectfully requested that this rejection be removed.

### **II. 35 USC §102 CLAIM REJECTIONS**

A. Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,156,988 to Baker (the '988 patent); and

B. Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,703,783 to Allen et al. (the '783 patent) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,003,902 to Petkovsek (the '902 patent).

Independent claims 1, 2 and 8 have each been amended to recite that "unaddressed" mailpieces are initially processed in a sorting apparatus with the sorting apparatus then applying employee address information to the unaddressed mailpiece. For instance, the present invention, as currently claimed, is able to address a generic mail distribution for intended employees wherein the mailpieces are initially presented to the sorter apparatus devoid of any employee addressing information.

In contrast, none of the cited references (i.e., the '988, '783 or '902 patent), either alone or combination, teach or suggest printing any addressing information on an unaddressed mailpiece. Each aforesaid reference actually requires that each mailpiece

have printed address information on it before any further addressing type of information may be added. Otherwise each reference is unable to operate according to its teaching in applying further addressing information to a mailpiece.

Accordingly, it respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 2 and 8, along with their respective depending claims, overcome the subject 35 USC §103 rejections and that removal thereof is requested.

### **III. CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that pending claims 1-11 are now in a condition for allowance and favorable action thereon is requested. If the Examiner should have any questions, he is kindly urged to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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